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## **Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher Opening Statement for Threat Panel Hearing on Asia**

**Washington, D.C.** – I am pleased today to welcome our panel as we look at a critical part of the world that contains a set of both old and new challenges to United States power.

China, already a regional power, has been aggressively modernizing its military over the last decade and is emerging as a world player with strategic ambitions.

While U.S. policymakers have always struggled with the best way to manage China's rise, a snapshot of the world today shows us confronting and addressing China all across the globe over a range of issues: whether it be China's enormous appetite for energy resources and efforts to secure markets as far away as South America, the perpetual situation with Taiwan, or cooperation on North Korea and in the war on terror.

Yet at the same time, China is experiencing the pain and turmoil associated with its limited experiment in opening parts of its economy.

Labor unrest, more open political criticism from its people, government corruption, land disputes, and an unsettled Muslim minority are but some of the items that the Communist leadership is grappling with.

How China manages its domestic challenges will have a significant impact on the portion of the budget it devotes in coming years to improving its military.

In a 2003 report, the Council on Foreign Relations Study on Chinese military power warned: "first against overreaction to the large scale of China's military modernization program; and second, against under reaction based on the relative backwardness of the People's Liberation Army compared with U.S. power."

I look forward to the thoughts of this panel on how the United States should best position itself to address China's growing role but also how the U.S. can become a more informed actor in understanding China's own challenges, its intentions and the roles it is playing in the region and on the global stage.

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